Issue of identity cards

1867. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would instruct the BSNL authorities in empowering District Telecommunication Authorities in India to issue identity cards to the non-official Telecommunication Advisory Committee's Members, mentioning the period for which they are nominated in view of Members facing humiliating situations before BSNL employees, when they visit various BSNL offices;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government would raise the present allowance of Rs. 200/- to at least Rs. 500/- which is the minimum taxi/car fare required for each sitting of every local non-official member of Telephone Advisory Committee; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) No, Sir. In the existing guidelines, there is no provision of issue of Identity cards to TAC members.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The local non-official members are required to make local journey only to reach TAC meeting venue and existing ceiling appears to be quite enough to meet the expenses of local journey.

Estimation of tiger population by NBWL

1868. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the on-going estimation of tiger population in the country by the National Board of Wildlife (NBWL) has indicated that only 1300-1500 tigers are left in the country;

(b) whether a study by the Wildlife Institute of India has established that much of the loss in tiger population is in forests outside the national parks and sanctuaries;

(c) whether the conservationists allege that the Forest Rights Act in its present form is not conducive to conservation of wildlife; and

(d) if so, Government's comments thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) The All India estimation of tigers and other wild animals, including habitat status evaluation, is ongoing as per the revised, enhanced methodology standardized by the National Tiger Conservation Authority (erstwhile Project Tiger) and the Wildlife Institute of India, as endorsed by the Tiger Task Force from November, 2005. So far, the tiger estimation figures relating to only four States (Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra) have been finalized, which indicate a decline in tiger population in areas outside tiger reserves and protected areas.

(c) and (d) The Ministry of Environment and Forests has taken steps for safeguarding various concerns of wildlife in the rules being framed under "The Scheduled Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006"

Targets for afforestation

1869. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have fixed any target for afforestation in the country; and

(b) if so, the details of progress and achievements made in this respect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) The targets for tree planting were being, fixed under two mutually exclusive parameters, namely Point 16 A (Tree plantation on private lands-number of trees planted) and Point 16 B (Area covered-public and forest land, Hectares) of the Twenty Point Programme-1986. The target and achievement during 2006-07 were as under:-

Year	Point 16 A (Tree plantation on private lands) Number of Trees planted in lakhs		Point 16 B (Area covered under plantation-public and forest lands) Area in hectare,	
	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement
2006-07	15010	13218.49	18,70,000	1,16,55,727

The targets for tree planting under revised Twenty Point Programme-2006 for the year 2007-08 areas given below:-

Point 52 (a) : Area covered under plantation public and forest land-18,60,000 hectare.

Point 52 (b) : Number of seedlings planted on public and forest land (Number):- 12,090 Lakh

National environment mission

1870. SHRI M. V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have launched any National Environment Mission in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the time-frame within which the mission would be launched?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) No, Sir.